El Conquistador golf course transformed from development to semi-private

Second course no petty matter for Trivial Pursuit creators Haney, Abbott

Paintbrush exhibits Hurdzan's artwork

Builders association works to define future

New golf course construction 1985-90
A triple green, 16-foot bunker, two-green hole...

The list of out-of-the-ordinary features goes on for Hurdzan and his Trivial Pursuit clients.

The International at Bolton, Mass., sports the largest green in the United States—27,000 square feet. Two railroad tie bunkers and free sod wall bunkers surround it.

- There is no pavement on the entire course. Crushed stone was used for cart paths, entrance roads, parking areas and walkways.
- Rock piles galore, from two to nine feet high, dot the course. Many were on site before building began. Others were stacked during construction.
- Numerous stone walls add definition and beauty. Most are between holes and along the entrance road. Elsewhere, a stone wall crosses the 8th hole's fairway at 220 yards off the back tee. Holes 4 and 17 have stone walls just off the side of the green and the 10th has a stone wall just behind the green.
- Fescue grasses dominate the course. All in-play areas except greens are fine creeping red fescue. Out-of-play areas are 50 percent red fescue, 40 percent hard fescue and 10 percent Kentucky bluegrass. Greens are Penncross bentgrass.
- The clubhouse will be built on an Irish pub theme. Haney and Abbott wanted it to have a thatch roof, but the fire marshal would not allow it. But — if a golfer wears knickers, their first beer is free, and only British beer will be served.
- The irrigation system has 650 sprinkler heads.
- To get as much of the touch of Scotland as possible, Haney and Abbott sent Fry, Pulpit superintendent Ken Wright and director of golf Doug Ball on a tour of Scottish courses before the Paintbrush was designed.
- Fry related that St. Andrews' and Royal Dornach's superintendents said they have all sod-wall bunkers. St. Andrews has 150 and rebuilds 50 each year.
- Wright’s response was “We’re using all fescues, why not all-sod walls on the bunkers?”
- From the sod-walled bunkers to the rock piles (typical of the Scottish highlands), the stone walls and the fescues, the Paintbrush emulates visions of Scotland.
- Which precisely was the owners’ — and Hurdzan’s — intent.
- Hurdzan’s favorite hole? The 17th, a 545-yard par 5. From the 17th tee a golfer hits downhill to a double fairway, which is divided by an old barn foundation sunk six feet into the ground. The second shot is blind over the large sod-wall bunker. From the tee you see the stone foundation and bunker, with Toronto’s CN Tower in the background.
- While golf at the Pulpit is played through the air, at the Paintbrush it will be played on the ground because the ball will run so far once it lands, Hurdzan said.
- “British golf course playing techniques will be helpful,” he added.

Golf Course Europe expands

Continued from page 1

The influential European Golf Association will be prominent in one of three pre-show panel discussions emphasizing environmental problems. Of prime concern is how associations, course architects and designers and environmental authorities can work in harmony to control and expand the growth of golf in Europe. United States and European architects, golf course authorities and environmentalists will huddle to discuss regulations, guidelines and future construction. Constraints vary from country to country.

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